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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re Application of: Group Art Unit: 1637 H. Michael WENZ Examiner: J. FREDMAN Application No.: 09/724,755 Confirmation No.: 8421 Filed: November 28, 2000 Attention: MAIL STOP AF METHODS FOR DETECTING For: **Expedited Procedure After Final** TARGET NUCLEIC ACIDS USING COUPLED LIGATION AND AMPLIFICATION

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Applicant now further responds to the Final Office Action mailed April 1, 2004 ("the Action"). On July 28, 2004, applicant submitted a Response After Final ("the July 2004 Response") with a Petition for One Month Extension of Time and extension fee. An Advisory Action was mailed on August 10, 2004. The period for reply has been extended two months by the Petition for Second and Third Month Extension of Time and fee payment filed concurrently herewith. Applicant also files a Notice of Appeal concurrently herewith.

Amendments to claims appear on pages 3 to 6.